

MARRON – POND BREEDING & REARING

Juvenile Marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*) have been reared in ponds at Pemberton since 1969. After spawning, maternal care, and release from the parent in each Spring-Summer period, the juveniles are kept for one to two years.

The 1970-71 year class was recently reared through to three years of age at which the majority of females spawned for the first time. One hundred and nineteen (75.8%) of the females mated and 116 became fully berried. Of the young released from these females in early January 1974, 2 820 were recovered at an inventory in late March. This virtually re-established the initial number of 2 980 juveniles present 3 years before, which provided the 1973-74 brood stock.

It is therefore possible to perpetuate captive stocks of this species of freshwater crayfish.

A second spawning of surviving females at a larger size next spring should provide a similar number of young again which can be used for other than future brood stock purposes, e.g. commercial production.

A small number of 3-year old pond-reared males were cooked and found, by a number of local gourmets, to have the usual very high standard of edibility of wild marron.